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Devotional

World Fellowship In Prayer

NOVEMBER 12 to 18, 1922

Daily Meditations by
Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick

DAILY TOPICS FOR PERSONAL AND GROUP INTERCESSION

The International Committee of
Young Men's Christian Associations

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WORLD FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER

This folder is designed to supplement the Official Call for the Week of Prayer for Young Men, issued by the Chairman and General Secretary of the International Committee. It is an attempt to provide a means for a larger measure of participation in the Week of Prayer for Young Men, observed for many years by the Associations in all lands.

The central theme suggested by the World's Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, located at Geneva, Switzerland, is "The Bread of Life." Its adaptation to present world needs is evident. At the earnest request of the International Committee of the North American Associations, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick has prepared daily meditations based on this theme.

There have also been arranged daily subjects for thought and prayer in which a few of the outstanding needs of this movement are suggested. How can they be made helpful?

First, carry and use the folder daily.

Secondly, get others to join with you in united prayer in small groups.

Thirdly, enlist your friends to secure and use the subjects every day.

Additional copies may be secured from your Association, or by writing to the International Office. Address: "The Week of Prayer, 347 Madison Avenue, New York." The price is 40c. per dozen; $2.50 per hundred; $18.00 per thousand.

DAILY MEDITATIONS

Prepared by

Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick

Author of "The Meaning of Prayer."

CENTRAL THEME
The World's Need of Jesus Christ

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

"Jesus said unto them: I am the bread of life; he that cometh unto me shall never hunger." (John 6:35)

One of the deepest needs of the Christian movement is a fresh sense of the indispensableness of our Lord. He is bread, without which the world starves. Materialism is leaving the souls of men famished, and our generation—its mind full of facts without spiritual meaning, its hands full of powers without spiritual use—is finding that out. Men everywhere are hungry for a gospel which they can honestly believe to be true and which will feed their souls. Jesus Christ Himself is the answer to that need, if only we can present Him so that His Divine Life will capture men's adoration and His principles command their allegiance.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13th

"Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

Whoever is to present Jesus Christ as indispensable must in his own personal experience have found Him so. Anything that we cannot

live without we can honestly recommend. It is a great day for a Christian, therefore, when he discovers, whether through a tussle with temptation, or a climb on the Hill Difficulty, or a session with real misery, that he cannot get on without Jesus Christ. Nothing else is real bread. Natural science may make us masters over many outward situations, but it does not set men singing, "He restoreth my soul." That is the cry of a vital religion. Supremely, that is the fruit of fellowship with Christ. And without that men may exist but they do not really live.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th

"That they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us; that the world may believe that thou didst send me." (John 17:21)

Whoever is to present Jesus Christ as indispensable must not only know Him as such in personal experience but must see Him as necessary to meet the concrete needs which afflict the Church and the world. For example, He is the one uniting bond between the divided churches. Christians may differ in opinion and creed, ritual and polity, but they all do believe in Jesus Christ as Son of God and Saviour. Devotion to His Personality is the one strand that holds the entire movement together. Take Him away and nothing is left but chaos. He is the one Center around which all His disciples can gather. The understanding and exaltation of Him, therefore, is the great need of the Church.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

"That ye may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inward man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." (Ephesians 3:16, 17)

Not only is Jesus Christ the uniting bond between the churches, but He is the source of their moral power. The central claim of Christianity on men's attention—its ability to transform character—goes back to Him and is inseparable from Him. It does not lie in theology or rubric or polity; it is found in personal relationship with Christ. He Himself is the productive source of the Gospel's transforming might. When men are in sin, need forgiveness, crave reinstatement and a new chance, want inward strength and the power to carry on—He is bread. The Church may well pray for a new grasp on this elemental Christian truth.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16th

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: . . . I have this against thee, that thou didst leave thy first love. Remember therefore whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I come to thee and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent." (Revelation 2:1, 4, 5)

Jesus Christ is indispensable as the standard of reform within the Church. Whenever in Christian history the Church's life has become corrupt, superficial, lukewarm, it has been the rediscovery of Christ which has cleansed the

Church and reestablished vital Christianity. To-day the churches need again a fresh invasion of His Presence, a fresh consciousness of His Character, rebuking our evils, correcting our faults, putting first things first and aligning us for His work. Christ as the Reformer of His own people, straightening them where they are crooked, sweetening them where they are bitter, enlightening them where they are blind, rebuking them where they are stubborn and putting new heart into them where they are discouraged, is one of the great needs of our time.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth." (Matthew 6:10)

There are two ways in which to approach the creation of a decent, brotherly world-order. One is to manipulate industrial and political institutions so as to make outward conditions more just and peaceful. The other is to get into men's minds and hearts ideas and principles of life so that good-will may dominate men from within out. All Christians should help with the first method, but it never can be made to work without the second. And those ideas and principles which are desperately needed in men's lives to-day, if this world is going to be redeemed to decency and fraternity, are rightly associated with Jesus Christ. He is not only indispensable bread for the individual. He is the bread of life for the world in all its relationships.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th

"If I . . . have eaten my morsel alone . . . then let my shoulder fall from the shoulder-blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone." (Job 31:16-22)

No one who vitally knows the indispensableness of Christ can be willing to withhold Him from the rest of humankind. As these recent years have shown, the appeal of a famine to those who have bread and to spare is well-nigh irresistible. The appeal of the non-Christian world to the Christian community ought likewise to arouse an overwhelming response. "The field is the world." Try to confine the love of God revealed in Christ to a limited portion of the world, to keep it for ourselves, and it will spoil on our hands. For by that act, whatever we may say, we are denying the indispensableness of our Lord. We cannot be unmissionary Christians. The adjective keeps ruining the noun.

WORLD FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER

Topics for Daily Intercession

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

Day of Prayer for Young Men and Boys. National Committees of Young Men's Christian Associations are found in thirty different countries, in which there are over 9,000 Associations, with 1,667,877 members, and 7,215 employed officers. Problems of national reconstruction—political, social, religious—are seriously affecting the efficiency and growth of the Young Men's Christian Associations in these countries.

1. Pray for the World's Committee located at Geneva, Switzerland, with its staff of twelve secretaries.

2. Pray for the National Councils and Committees of Europe, Latin America, South Africa, India, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Australia.

3. Pray for the revival of intercessory prayer; for an increase of the deep religious interest now manifest in different parts of the world, resulting in great ingatherings; for the reestablishment of the family altar, and organization of multitudes of groups for corporate prayer in the Association buildings in the various countries.

4. Pray for the various movements working toward finer expression of the essential unity of all followers of Jesus Christ.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13th

Association Members' Day. The active members in the North American Associations

number 406,395; the associate members, 476,774, a total of 883,169, of whom 228,860 are in the Boys' Department. There are 95,795 on boards and committees or other forms of voluntary service. Over 60,000 are living in Association dormitories.

1. Pray that the Associations may influence their members in a steadily increasing measure to adopt and live by the standards of Jesus Christ.

2. Pray that the numbers of volunteers in distinctively Christian service may be increased.

3. Pray that the members on boards and managing committees, and employed officers may have an expanding vision of the Association's unparalleled opportunity to promote vital religion among young men and boys.

4. Pray for the 5,464 employed officers in the American Associations, and for the veterans who will soon retire from more active official service.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th

General Agencies' Day. The International Committee with its 200 members, represents the Associations of Canada and the United States. This Committee, The National Council of Canada, and the forty-two State Committees with their 330 secretaries, have the task of promoting the extension, improvement, and efficiency of the Associations of North America. There are three Association Colleges and eight Summer Schools.

1. Pray that adequate funds may be provided for the maintenance and effective working of the General Agencies.

2. Pray for the Triennial Convention opening to-day at Atlantic City, that the right officers and committees may be selected, and that every detail of the program may be carried out in such a way as to insure increased productivity of the Association movement in North America.

3. Pray that the great issues before the Convention, which have a vital bearing upon the future of the Associations, may be considered with courage, faith and loyalty to the principles of Jesus Christ, and that the right decisions may be reached.

4. Pray for the Association Colleges, Summer Schools, and all plans for recruiting and training secretaries.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

Patriotic Day. The present world situation makes North America peculiarly responsible to manifest the right attitude toward other nations on the Western Continent, in Europe, the Near East and the Far East.

1. Pray that our political leaders may be governed by the highest ethical and spiritual ideals in all matters touching our relations to other nations.

2. Pray for faith and courage to follow the Living Christ in His progressive mastery of economic centers of power.

3. Pray that there may be no backward step from the higher moral ideals which the United States and Canada have adopted regarding alcohol as a beverage, and regarding allied evils

4. Pray that the Young Men's Christian Association may everywhere be recognized as the aggressive friend of all that makes for political, economic, and spiritual justice.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16th

Co-operation Day. The Associations are the servants of the Christian Church of North America. They are seeking with increasing earnestness for ways of finer and more extensive co-operation. There are varied types of Christian social service, educational and benevolent movements with which the Associations have increasing contacts.

1. Pray that an attitude of steady good-will toward all kindred movements in behalf of boys and young men may be maintained.

2. Pray that Association leaders may give a larger measure of active personal participation in the work of their local churches and denominations, adult classes, brotherhoods and men's leagues.

3. Pray that our members may show increasing reverence for the institutions and sacraments of the visible Church of Jesus Christ, and that love for the services of worship and prayer may mark the attitude of Association members everywhere.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th

Association Activities Day. The many-sided program of recreational, physical, educational, social, economic and religious activities continues to grow. Each of these groups of ac-

tivities is intended to contribute to the building of Christian character. Adequately to fulfill this purpose is the outstanding task of the Association. The total attendance at all Bible and religious meetings for the past year was 8,313,200; number of young men professing faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord was 37,131; number enrolled in Association Bible Classes, 201,182.

1. Pray that the persuading of young men and boys to accept Jesus Christ and His program of personal and social living, may be more fully accomplished.

2. Pray that larger numbers may be enlisted for practical Christian training, and that more young men may be led to give their lives to the various Christian callings.

3. Pray that as never before, the American Associations may promote personal and corporate praying, and that they may become in a distinctive way, a praying and prayer-promoting movement.

4. Pray for a Continent-wide revival of personal and public evangelism, which will insure a great ingathering during the coming season.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th

Association World Relations Day. The American and Canadian Associations have projected their ideals into 110 important cities and 247 student centers in India, China, Japan, Korea, Latin America, and the Near East, with a total of 214 foreign secretaries and 553 native secretaries in these lands. These Associations have a membership of 120,381; a comprehensive program of Association activities

with fifty-three buildings, and a highly productive work is in progress, with notable co-operation from the native leaders of these countries.

1. Pray that the American Associations may be true to the great responsibility which they have assumed for the support and extension of this work.

2. Pray that men and money may be found to meet the distressing and insistent needs of great centers now open to the Associations, but not occupied.

3. Pray that the obligation to share North America's best with the millions of young men in less favored lands may become the passion of our members.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19th

Universal Day of Prayer for Students. This is the day appointed by the World's Student Christian Federation for united intercession throughout the world on behalf of the work of Christ among students.

1. Pray that the results of the Federation Conference recently held in China may be conserved.

2. Pray that well-qualified evangelists and apologetic lecturers to the students of this generation may be raised up and related to the present wonderful opportunity for confronting students with the Living Christ.

3. Pray that the Christian Associations in the colleges may furnish the men so much needed for the leadership of the Christian forces.